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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

ABRIGNANI et al.

Serial No.: 09/011,910

Art Unit: 1642

Filing Date: February 17, 1998

Examiner: B. Brumback

Title: METHOD FOR PREPARING HCV E2 BINDING PROTEIN (as amended)

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**BOX RCE**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies the Request for Continued Examination submitted herewith and addresses the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action dated July 17, 2002. A Notice of Appeal was filed January 17, 2003. Accordingly, a petition and fee for a one-month extension of time accompanies this filing. Reconsideration of the application in view of the following amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.